

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** prescribed burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific management objectives; and

**WHEREAS,** ecosystems throughout the Palmetto State evolved in an environment in which fires occurred as often as every one to five years in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont and every seven to ten years in the mountains; and

**WHEREAS,** as a key tool in the management of South Carolina's woodlands, grasslands, and wildlife, prescribed fire is the most effective and economical protection against wildfires through the reduction of fuels which have accumulated in the absence of fire and is critical to the ecological integrity of our natural lands; and

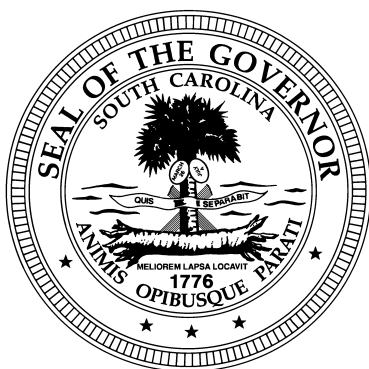
**WHEREAS,** many plants and animals require fire for their survival; and

**WHEREAS,** the approximate 500,000 acres of South Carolina land that is burned annually represents only half of the estimated one million acres that could benefit from prescribed fire.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2005 as

### PRESCRIBED FIRE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays in the stewardship of our natural resources and protection of our citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**